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4 January 1983

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

THROUGH:

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FROM: Constantine C. Menges
NIO/LA

SUBJECT: Issues for Your Meetings this week with Judge Clark and
Secretaries Schultz and Weinberger

1. Public Diplomacy About Central America:

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I have made these suggestions at State last month and am calling Enders about this, but detect no movement yet.

Forty-nine countries will send representatives to "Non-aligned" Movement meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, to be held from 10-12 January 1983. Nicaragua has already circulated strong anti-US positions and in my judgement will use this meeting as a springboard for anti-US actions in the UN Security Council and a combined anti-US, anti-Honduras campaign in Europe and Mexico. To my knowledge we have done very little either to build up a coalition of our friends at the meeting or to prepare for the propaganda which will come out of the NAM meeting

I would also raise again two issues from my 21 December memorandum for your meeting with Judge Clark in the event these have not yet been discussed:

NSC/Central America Assessment

You will recall that Judge Clark wrote a memorandum on 25 October calling for a Central America Assessment to be completed by 15 November 1982. My EYES ONLY chronology of how this assessment and a previous effort by Judge Clark in March 1982 became sidetracked is attached. The question now is will Judge Clark pursue this much-needed assessment of: (1) what has actually been done to implement the President's NSDD decisions; (2) is enough being done to defeat the extreme left in Central America? This last question was not

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explicitly stated in the Clark assessment tasking, and in my view needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Argentina:

The demonstration by 100,000 people and ensuing violence on 14 December crystalizes the enormous difficulty facing Argentina as the military regime tries to make an orderly transition to constitutional government. It is my judgment that the Soviet bloc and Cuba will be active to simultaneously improve state-to-state relations and use subversion to create problems for the transition, hoping to either provoke massive military repression or accomplish some degree of penetration of a "left nationalist" civilian government. In my judgement, now is the time for the US and other democratic countries to become more active to: (1) prevent Soviet bloc/Cuban subversion and (2) in behalf of democratic institution building in labor, the parties and moderate civic groups. This could be the subject of an NSPG. Note that I have initiated a SNIE to be titled: ARGENTINA: A TROUBLED TRANSITION, which State will draft to be completed in February 1983.


Constantine C. Menges

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